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and discipline under its present head. The Member, however, said that there was yet much room for a further development of the department and that the suggestion that he had to make was that lines should be provided for the executive police. The advantages resulting from the measure, if adopted, were manifold. The whole body of men allotted to a station would be concentrated and they would be available for all emergent calls, better facilities would be afforded for the supervising authorities to check the movements of the police even when they were off-duty, habits of sobriety and temperance, stricter moral discipline, a healthy *esprit-de-corps* and a higher sense of responsibility and duty would be promoted, the confidence of the public in the police would be fostered and the public safety would be ensured. The Member said that, on financial considerations, he would suggest that, for the present, the measure might be tentatively tried in important towns in the State and in taluks bordering on the British territories and Cochin.

Dewan's reply.—The views and suggestions of the several Members are noted. The attention of the District Magistrate of Quilon will be drawn to the state of affairs alleged to exist in the Kottarakara taluk.

III. Forests.

30. *Reservation of grazing and manure grounds.*

Mr. M. Sivathanu Pillai (Member, Tovala Taluk) represented that the ryots were at present labouring under several difficulties in the matter of cultivation. Reserved forests extended up to human habitations, and there were in consequence no areas available for the people either for the purpose of grazing their cattle on or for removing manure leaves from for agricultural purposes. In the absence of such grazing grounds, it was very difficult to maintain their cattle, and if prompt steps were not taken by Government, cultivation was bound to go down in course of time. A further obstacle was recently thrown in the way of the ryots by the levy of a fee on foreign cattle entering the reserves for grazing. The foreign cattle were resorting to the State forests, not because of the absence of facilities for grazing in the adjoining British villages, but because they were being brought in by the Travancore ryots for their agricultural operations, as there were not enough cattle in the State itself for the purpose. A fee had also to be paid on fuel removed from the forests for agricultural purposes. With a view to remove the above difficulties, the Member suggested that it was desirable to exclude from

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the reserved forests all lands within a radius of two miles from inhabited and registered areas and to permit the free grazing of all cattle therein and also the free removal of manure, fuel &c. for agricultural purposes from such areas.

Mr. Thoma Thoma (Member, Alangad Taluk) said that, though the necessity for setting apart grazing grounds in each village had been represented at successive meetings of the Assembly, the matter had not so far received the earnest consideration of Government. Government were aware that the few lands reserved here and there as pasture grounds were quite disproportionate to the requirements of the agriculturists all over the State. Some of the porambokes, which could be used as grazing grounds, were being registered indiscriminately. He therefore requested that early steps might be taken to provide sufficient grazing grounds in each village.

Mr. Mathevan Pillai (Member, Nedumangad Taluk) said that lists of grounds fit for reservation as fodder areas had already been sent from the Nedumangad taluk and that he had only to request that Government might be pleased to expedite the reservation of such tracts.

Mr. A. Narayanan Unnithan (Member, Kottarakara Taluk) requested that the ryots might be allowed to gather manure leaves and timber for agricultural implements from unreserved forests.

Dewan's reply.—I have little to add to what I have already stated in my address regarding the forest policy of Government. To disafforest areas once reserved is ordinarily considered retrograde and will not be done except for very strong reasons. Cultivation has a natural tendency to extend *up to* the limits of forest reserves, and if the forest boundaries are now put back so as to allow a margin between the cultivated lands and the reserves, the relief, if any, afforded thereby would be very temporary. I have already stated that Government have resolved not to go in for *more* reservation of *timber* forests. They have also resolved *not* to *reduce* the areas of their existing reserves except for very cogent reasons.

The question of fuel and fodder reserves has been engaging the consideration of Government. The Conservator has been asked to expedite reservation in this direction. It would however be impossible to provide such reserves for *every* village, for the reason that we have not got the lands. As the rules now stand, the ryots are permitted to remove,

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free of charge, from *unreserved* lands, timber—other than royal and reserved trees—dry wood, thorns, leaves of trees and shrubs, for *bona fide* agricultural and domestic purposes.

31. Grant of permission for the removal of trees on private lands without a pass.

Mr. Padmanabhan Narayanan (Member, Pathanapuram Taluk) said that, under para 7 of the Forest Rules, a pass had to be taken out from the Divisional Forest Officer before any tree, other than royal trees, standing on private land, could be removed by the owner. The jurisdiction of a Divisional Forest Officer extended over about five taluks, and it was difficult in each individual case to apply for and obtain his permission in proper time. The result of the arrangement was that inordinate delay occurred and the passes were often received at a time when the necessity for them had ceased. There was thus loss and inconvenience to the people. With the present staff of forest guards, it should be very easy for the Forest department to prevent any possible illicit removal of timber from the Sirkar forests. The restriction on the liberty of the people to remove trees, other than royal, from their own registered holdings, was unnecessary and might be removed. Further, in cases of clandestine removal of timber from Sirkar lands, Section 52 of the Regulation operated to safeguard the interests of Government, as, under that Section, the onus of proving that the timber was removed from private land was upon the party concerned.

Dewan's reply.—The rule complained of is intended as a precaution against the illicit removal of timber from Sirkar lands. The Conservator will be asked to report on the working of this rule and to say if it can be relaxed without endangering the Sirkar interests. The Conservator will also be asked to see that applications are disposed of without delay.

32. Removal of obstruction to hill cultivation.

Mr. Geeverghese Catanar Geeverghese (Member, Chengannur Taluk) represented that the ryots were now experiencing much obstruction at the hands of the officers of the Forest department in carrying on malavirippu cultivation on hill slopes, and the people living near the hills, who mainly depended upon such cultivation, suffered greatly in consequence. He requested that orders might be issued to stop the reservation of lands within a radius of two miles from the hills and to afford every facility to the ryots for cultivation within those areas.

Dewan's reply.—The clearing and cultivation of hill slopes is an undesirable thing and the policy of Government is to prevent such clearing and cultivation as far as

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